recommendation to the Cabinet. At Present, the prices of medicines are being controlled as per DPCO, 1995 which was formulated as per Pharmaceutical Policy, 1994.

(c) and (d) References/representations received from individuals, Non-Government Organizations, State Drugs Controllers and Consumer fora are attended to promptly for appropriate and necessary action.

Under the provisions of the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO 1995, the prices of 74 bulk drugs, specified in the first schedule, and the formulations containing any of these scheduled drugs are controlled. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)/Government fix or revise prices of scheduled drugs/formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. No one can sell any scheduled drugs/formulations at a price higher than that fixed by NPPA. NPPA as part of its price monitoring activity, regularly examines the movement in their prices. The monthly reports of ORG IMS and the information furnished by individual manufacturers are utilized for the purpose of monitoring price of non-scheduled formulations. Whenever a price increase beyond 10% per annum is noticed, the specific manufacturers are asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed, conditions, action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of the formulation in public interest. This is an ongoing process.

Further, based on monitoring of prices of non-scheduled formulations, NPPA has fixed prices in case of 27 formulation packs under para 10(b) of DPCO, 1995 and companies have reduced price voluntarily in case of 64 formulation packs. Thus, in all, prices of 91 packs of non-scheduled drugs were reduced as a result of the intervention of NPPA since its inception. Monitoring and Enforcement of prices of medicines is an ongoing process and appropriate action is taken by NPPA, as and when considered necessary.

Import of pulses

947. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether pulses are being imported from various countries through different ports of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the import of pulses effected during the period 2008-09; particularly through the port of Kolkata; and

(c) the details of the off-take of pulses from the respective godowns for the purpose of PDS during the above period, godown-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per DGCIS data, 2.44 million tonnes of pulses was imported during the period 2008-2009. A quantity of 0.44 million tonnes of pulses was imported through the port of Kolkata.

(c) The PSUs *viz*. MMTC, PEC, STC and NAFED, were mandated to supply imported pulses to the State Governments for distribution through PDS. Of them only MMTC imported 4000 tonnes of Red Lentils during 2008-09 through Kolkata port for supply to the West Bengal Government for distribution through PDS.

Ban on export of rice, wheat and pulses

948. SHRI P. R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a decision to stop export of rice, wheat and pulses; and

(b) if not, the reasons for not banning export of such items considering the shortfall in production and drought situation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Export of wheat, non-basmati rice and pulses (except kabuli chana) has been banned. The export of Wheat Floor (Maida), Samolina (Rava/Sirgi), Wholemeal atta and resultant atta has been allowed subject to limit of 6.50 lakh tons upto 31.03.2010.

(b) In view of sufficient availability and to enable farmers to get remunerative prices, the export of kabuli chana and basmati rice have been permitted.

Buffer stock of foodgrains

949. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total buffer stock of foodgrains in the country till October, 2009;

(b) the expected production of foodgrains in the current year;

(c) the expected consumption of foodgrains in the current year; and

(d) whether Government envisages the need to import foodgrains in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The stocks of foodgrains (rice and wheat) in the Central Pool as on 31.10.2009 were 216.21 lakh tons of rice and 268.88 lakh tons of wheat.

(b) The Targeted production of foodgrains during 2009-10, as per estimates of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is 239.10 million tons.

(c) As per the Report of the Planning Commission working group for the Eleventh Five year plan, the expected demand projections based on household consumption of foodgrains in the country during 2009-10 is 202.08 million tons including seed, feed and wastages requirements.

(d) Based on the present stocks of wheat and rice and estimates of rice procurement in